

It's no secret that exercise and a balanced diet promote longevity and well-being. Now, a new Australian study claims that eating more fiber can boost your chances of living to a ripe old age disease-free. Study participants who consumed the most fiber were 80% more likely to avert hypertension, diabetes, dementia, cancer, stroke and depression in their lifetime.

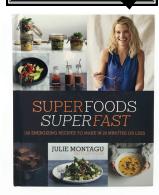
"In our study, the adults who reached old age, disease-free and fully functional, were those in the highest group of fiber consumption (37 grams per day)," says associate professor and lead study author Bamini Gopinath, PhD, of The Westmead Institute for Medical Research. "This is probably the approximate amount needed to see the benefits," she says. The study also found that increased fiber consumption had a greater impact on overall health than sugar intake and glycemic index.

To slow the effects of Father Time, make an effort to consume a wide variety of fiberrich foods on a daily basis. Smart choices include whole-grain breads and cereals, beans, lentils, fruits and veggies. Gopinath adds that eating such foods "is likely to have an overall protective effect against chronic diseases and functional disability."



If you're looking to lose weight, try logging your daily meal and snack consumption in a food journal. Multiple studies show that people who keep track of their meals lose more weight than those who don't. While a notebook and pen will do, there are also websites and apps, such as **supertracker.usda.gov**, that can help you track your meals while calculating nutrients and macronutrients per meal.

Best Cookbook for the time-strapped



SUPERFOODS SUPERFAST:

100 Energizing Recipes to Make in 20 Minutes or Less

Julie Montagu's
Superfoods Superfast
brings 100 appetitewhetting recipes to the
table, with a spotlight
on superfoods in all
their nutritional glory.
Montagu includes
a wide selection of
recipes broken down
into breakfasts, snacks,
salads, soups, square
meals, suppers and
sweets categories.

EASY-TO-FIND

INGREDIENTS: The superfoods featured in the recipes are easily accessible at the supermarket and include cacao, coconut, nuts, portobello mushrooms, beetroot, kale and butternut squash.

By Julie Montagu (\$25, Quadrille Publishing)

26 cleaneating.com